

**Executive Committee, Commission on Aging  
February 17, 2011  
Meeting Notes**

Attending: Elaine Binder, Tammy Duell, John Honig, Vivien Hsueh, Marcia Pruzan, Spencer Schron, Judy Welles,

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion Points</b>	<b>Decisions/follow-up</b>
<b>Jan. Meeting notes</b>		Will go out with February meeting notes
<b>Annual Report: Marcia Pruzan</b>	Is in last stages of completion	
<b>Public Policy; John Honig</b>	<p>Reviewed status of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST): Tammy testified in Annapolis; bill seems to have support except from disability community; a Senate workgroup will work toward addressing concerns.</li> <li>2. Protection from financial crimes, has faced opposition, may not pass this year</li> <li>3. Personal information at Senior Centers. This information is currently available under Freedom of Information Act; bill would protect privacy of formation. Communities for a Lifetime: COA sent language to Annapolis; there is an issue regarding need for certification.</li> <li>4. Senator Raskin is considering legislation for automatically giving seniors absentee ballots for elections.</li> <li>5. State DOA budget: few cuts this year, but Federal Government provides a sizeable portion of this budget, and its contribution is unknown at this point.</li> <li>6. Bob Tiller is on the USM legislative committee. We will support issues that are consistent without principles and priorities. If COA does not agree with a USM position, we will decline to support it and go on record in opposition.</li> <li>7. There will be a United Seniors of Maryland rally on March 9;</li> <li>8. A suggestion was made to hold a breakfast for County Council members in late spring, summer.</li> <li>9.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Grace will testify on personal information issue in Annapolis.</li> <li>4. The COA might consider sending a letter supporting this bill without requirement for certification; Jack will be providing us with more information about this issue.</li> <li>7. COA members interested in attending the USM rally should contact Jack.</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting with Mr. Leggett: Elaine Binder</b>	Judy and Spence joined Elaine in a meeting with Mr. Leggett, along with Chuck Short, Gabe Albornes, Austin Heyman, and Uma Ahluwalia. Mr. Leggett supports the Call to Action, has given the COA an ex-officio, nonvoting place at the table of his senior subcabinet, and endorsed the COA request to assemble a transportation forum with	Odile is looking into effects on seniors of lack of meal service on weekends.

	public and private transportation providers to develop a County-wide short-and long-term transportation plan. (See Transportation forum, later in this report.)	
<b>Testimony before County Executive Elaine Binder</b>	Elaine, Vivien, and Marcia attended hearing; Mr. Leggett stated that the County's vulnerable are one of his top priorities. Elaine spoke about protecting the most vulnerable elderly, and Vivien spoke about transportation issues.	
<b>Stakeholder Meeting Beth Shapiro</b>	<p>There was a good turnout, and much good discussion; however, takeaway message of meeting (Remember: Seniors Count and ways to take mutually important issues and message back to organizations) may have been somewhat unclear.</p> <p>More regular communication with stakeholders is needed. More attention is needed to encourage diversity in participation.</p>	<p>The COA should begin thinking about ways to communication with stakeholders and the regularity of communication. The C&amp;CO committee will work with Beth and Grace on outreach issues.</p> <p>Participation of diverse organizations as partners may be a good topic for Summer Study.</p>
<b>Communication and Community Outreach Committee Judy Welles, and Spencer Schron</b>	<p>We need to ask COA members to speak out on important issues and encourage partners to do so as well. Personalized stories where possible bring in the human element.</p> <p>Media Outreach: Elaine will be speaking with Gazette to try to get more coverage of senior issues, especially the effects of budget cuts on senior programs and services.</p>	
<b>Health and Wellness: Tammy Duell</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Falls Prevention Project (recommended by Steve Galen.) Shawn Brennan is assembling a group to work on this effort.</li> <li>2. Patient Bill of Rights: H&amp;W is arranging a meeting with Dr. Tillman to gain support for getting County bill passed.</li> <li>3. Tammy congratulated the Public Policy Committee and the COA for its work on MOLST.</li> <li>4. Health Montgomery (formerly called CHIP) Website is now available. Data are somewhat limited at this point, but there is hope that the database will grow.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Tammy encourages COA members to visit the Health Montgomery website: <a href="http://www.healthymontgomery.org/">http://www.healthymontgomery.org/</a></li> </ol>
<b>Aging In Place/ Community: Beth Shapiro</b>	Committee has met, reviewed results of stakeholders meeting related to transportation, which is key focus of the group at this time. Committee members will meet with Odile and Elaine to brainstorm how best to move forward.	This committee should consider focusing on more than one topic (transportation) as aging in place is a very broad category.
<b>Recommendations for upcoming Speakers: Elaine</b>	<p>Annual Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna Smith, Department of Aging: Diversity</li> </ul>	

<b>Binder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruce Adams, Office of Community Partnership-Diversity</li> <li>• George Leventhal</li> </ul> <p>Regular COA meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uma Ahluwalia. (April COA meeting)</li> <li>• Gabe Albornes: <b>Vision 2030, Parks and Recreation Vision 2030 &amp; 10-year strategic plan</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Proposed Transportation Forum: Elaine Binder</b>	<p>Elaine sketched out a preliminary proposal for a transportation forum and asked for comments. The forum would bring together DOT and nonprofit and profit groups. Suggestions were made about including groups that have vans not in use during day, about tapping resources such as Bethesda Urban Partnership, RSVP, and local businesses. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A needs assessment is key. Perhaps informal focus groups could be conducted at senior centers</li> <li>• Issue to consider: people frequently say they need transportation, but then do not use it when it is made available.</li> <li>• Taxi regulations could be examined and changed in ways that benefit seniors.</li> </ul>	
<b>Pledge 25 Elaine Binder</b>	<p>October 25 is community Service Day: the county is establishing Pledge 15 to get people to pledge to do 25 hours of community service between Martin Luther King Day and October 22, 2011.</p>	<p>It was suggested that the COA sign up as a whole group.</p>
<b>Next meeting:</b>	<p>March 17, 2011</p>	